Questions on Home Missions
And Womans Work in Home Missions

1st What is the aim of Home Missions?
2nd What is the need of it, in this land of light & privilege?
3rd What motives have we for interest in the work?
4th What is the special urgency of the work?
5th What is the Field of Home Mission Work?
6th What races of people does the work embrace?
7th By what methods does the Home Mission Board propose to reach these classes?
8th What authority has the Womans Work in Home Missions of the Presbyterian church?
9th What is the special work entrusted to Womens Societies?
10th Wherein lies the need & efficiency of the school work
11th How are Presbyterian Woman organized for this Work?
12th What has been effected so far by the Womens Societies?
13th Has the Womans Work in Home Missions had the approval of our General Assembly since its organization?
14th Has it expressed a desire for its continuance?
15th How much has been expended during the past year for work,- by the Women's Societies?
16th Why does the Womans work especially demand our sympathies and prayers—?
17th What means has been used for spreading information & awakening an interest in Home Missions by Womans Societies?

18th What is the organ of Information on Home Missions both of the General Assembly's Board & Ladies Societies?

Answers to Questions on Home Missions & Woman's Work in it.

Question No. 1–, What is the Aim of Home Missions?
Answer No. 1–, To give the Gospel to our own Land.

Question No. 2–, What is the need of it, in this land of light and privilege?
Answer No. 2–, The voices of the thousands daily landing on our shores as emigrants, from countries, infidel, popish, & heathen; as well as the dark regions of Utah, New Mexico, Alaska, California, and other States and territories of our marvellously developing New-West; make answer–.

Question No. 3–, What motives have we for interest in this Work?
Answer No. 3–, Not only obedience to the last command of our Master, the "go ye" which includes our own among the "all nations," (even if we do not emphasize "the beginning at Jerusalem")–but the additional motive of patriotism. Loyalty to the principles on which the foundations of our nation were laid in prayer and struggle, upon which is to rise the fair superstructure of Christian Liberty, which is to become, not only the heritage of all nations, but a beacon light to guide them, unless ~~we~~ by our indifference and inactivity, allow its walls

to be undermined by the infidelity, popery, and paganism which assail it. Self defense, if we would continue a Christian nation urges us to action – as well as the broader motive, of so purifying, ~~and~~ fortifying & strengthening our own forces, that they may reach out in Christian effort to the ends of the Earth – taking as we do for our Motto "Our land for Christ, that the World may be Christ's"

Question No. 4, What is the special urgency of the work, demanding prompt action?
Answer No. 4 –, It is found not only in the need of individual souls to be reached by it – but in the crises which is upon us in our country's history – The work to be done, to be "well done," must be "done quickly" – The new states and territories opening & filling up so rapidly want this moulding influence now – The Infidel and iniquitous practices brought to us from foreign countries in such overwhelming forces – need our prompt and energetic resistance now – threatening as they ~~do~~ do, not only defiance to our government, but to the Christian sentiment of our nation –. The new communities forming from all nationalities & religions need the permeating leaven of the Gospel now (before they harden into permanent formative ~~laid in their foundations,~~ ~~taking form~~ ~~thus giving direction to their future~~ – ~~Now pliable to mold~~

Question No. 5 - What is the field of Home Missions?
Answer No. 5 - It stretches from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific, from the Northern Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico - from the forests of Maine to the Texan prairies - from Alaskan ~~ocean~~ to Florida Savannas; but especially lies within the limits of our far North West, Central and South West, including the wonderful but undeveloped domains of Alaska, New Mexico, Utah, and territories of Washington, Oregon, Nebraska, Colorado, Montana, Dakota, Idaho, Indian, and the newer States of Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada & California; as well as in the great cities of our country.

Question No. 6, What races of people does the work embrace?
Answer No. 6 - Not only the newer and more scattered communities of our own Anglo-Saxon brothers & sisters, but the incoming tide from heathen China & Japan, Pope ridden Ireland, France, Spain and Italy, Infidel Germany, Mormon proselytes from Sweden, Norway & England, with the many Indian tribes, and the poor African freedmen of the South, a variety embracing almost all nationalities, and demanding varied modes of work -.

Question No. 7 - How does the Home Board propose to reach these classes?

Answer No. 7 - By providing for, and sustaining in these needy fields, missionaries, teachers, & preachers - Brave and earnest they pioneers of the Gospel, ~~who~~ count not their ease dear unto them, but are ready for self-sacrifice, hardship and toil, in the service of preempting the land for Christ - going out into the broad prairies of the West, scaling its mountains, exploring its valleys, fording its streams, they carry with them the open Bible & plant the school - the church and Christian home - Frequently their field of labor is ~~not~~ wide new settlements consisting of a few wooden houses, which soon develope into towns of importance, where the little home mission church grows to a centre of power and influence, becoming not only self sustaining, but often ~~soon~~ in a short time reaching out to the regions beyond, in turn, sending its light to others - They send also through their missionaries to the many tribes of the Red men from whom we have wrested their goodly heritage, the Gospel message tendering to those who shall become the children of the "Great Father" in Heaven" an inheritance that fadeth not away" - ~~And to other nationalities located on our domain~~ - They also meet~~ing~~ the incoming foreigner, Spanish and French, Swede & Dane,

Italian + German, with the Gospel ~~teaching~~ truths giving ~~translating~~ them into their varied languages, the Bible, and other ~~selected~~ religious books.

Question No. 8-, What Authority has Woman's Work in Home Missions in the Presbyterian Church?
Answer No. 8-, Not only is it in obedience to the dictates of the Christian heart and enlightened conscience of Presbyterian Women, but they have the especial request and sanction of our General Assembly for their separate organization for especial branches of the great work — for which our General Home Mission Board has not the means or adaptability.

Question No. 9-, What is the special work entrusted to Presbyterian Woman in Home Missions?
Answer No 9-. In addition to the old and good work, of supplying to needy Home Missionaries, and their families, on our out-posts living on meagre salaries, the help and comfort afforded by boxes of clothing and other necessaries of life — the work given ~~them~~ is among the "exceptional races" as they are called, the Spanish speaking New Mexicans, the Indian tribes located in Alaska — Colorado, Arizona, and the Mormons of Utah — to whom ~~it is entrusted to furnish schools, including buildings, school & chapel.~~

they are to send the Christian teacher, furnishing the School-house with its furniture and necessary appliances for efficient work and ~~the Chapel~~ aiding in building the Chapel ~~~~

~~teacher & most necessary appliances for effective work~~ — thus introducing the Gospel by means of educating the children in it — thus (to quote from the Board's report) "sapping the foundations of superstition, ignorance & false religions and upbuilding the cause of our Redeemer".

Question No. 10 — Wherein lies the need and efficiency of the school work?

Answer No. 10 — The school is the forerunner of the church. the teacher ~~has found~~ finds entrance, where the preacher ~~could~~ can not — gaining the hearts and influencing the minds of the children — The Missionary teacher undermines the walls of superstition, ignorance & bigotry — that repel the advance of the regular Soldiers of the Gospel army — ~~Their~~ The influence of the teacher has been ~~wonderful~~ & greatly blessed — alike to the savage tribes of ~~of Alaska~~ Indians — ~~the Mormons superstitious and degenerating of Utah~~ the superstitious degraded Mormons & the ignorant bigoted Romanists of New Mexico and Arizona — The contrast is said to be striking and touching between the wild parents & the trained children in Colorado and New Mexico — where instead of savage incantations have been heard the singing of our familiar Hymns — "Rock of Ages" "Jesus Lover of my Soul" "Just as I am" &c — by the children's voices.

Question No. 11 - How are Presbyterian Woman organized for this work?

Answer No. 11 - There are three of the Woman's Organizations Auxillary to the Board "The Womans Home and Foreign Missionary Society of Long Island" - "The Woman's Presbyterian Board of the South West" - the above two engaged in both Home & Foreign work - yet both work together in aid of the Home Board - cordially & unitedly - ~~& the~~ Woman's Executive Committee - the largest, though the latest formed, and which is especially engaged in Educational work on Home Mission ground. In connection with this Committee, the Assembly have recommended & secured the appointment of Synodical committees of Ladies from the various Presbyteries who are to have the supervision of work within their bounds - As many Presbyterial Societies are to be organized as they have been for Foreign work - each Auxillary a church society, or Band in the Presbytery being connected with their respective Presbyterial Societies, & reporting through them.

Question No 12-. What has been effected so far by the Woman's Ex. Committee Societies?

Answer No 12-. Beside the spreading of information on the subject- awakening interest, and organizing Societies or Bands of workers, among the women and youth of the church, thus laying the foundations for work, and putting in motion influences which are far reaching as immeasurable in their effects- the definite work done on Mission ground so far has resulted in the founding and support by the Women's Societies of Boarding & day Schools, including buildings both for Chapels and Schools- appliances and teachers- supporting in 1883 in [illegible]- teachers, among the Mormons 65- teachers, New Mexicans 21, Indians 47, in all 133 teachers

Question No. 13-, Has the Woman's work in Home Missions, had the approval of our General Assembly since its organization?

Answer No. 13-: To quote from the Board Report for this year "The work of the Woman's Executive Committee presents many interesting and gratifying features- as it relates to the prosecution of the great and important special work of the Women of the church, among the exceptional populations of the country- a work that cannot

be measured, because it operates upon the children of these populations, moulds their character and prepares them for the responsibilities of future citizenship in the Great Republic"

Question No. 14-. Has it expressed a desire for its continuance?
Answer No. 14-. The same Assembly reiterates its former recommendations for the same thorough organization of the work of Womens Synodical Committees, Presbyteries & Churches-.

Question No. 15-, How much has been expended during the past year for work by the Womens Societies
Answer No. 15-. To school buildings & salaries of teachers during the year 1883. $87.401-

Question No. 16-. Why does the Womans Work especially demand our sympathies & prayers?
Answer No. 16-. Because it is an exceedingly difficult and self denying work to the Missionaries engaged in it, and calls for the highest consecration and most heroic courage and endurance in our Missionary teachers- and because of its great importance -. Because it is our work, and because we want Gods blessing on it.

Question No. 17 - What has been the means used for Spreading information & awakening interest on the subject?

Answer No. 17 - Public meetings have been held - addresses made by Home Missionaries & others - Leaflets on the subject distributed, Letters read from our Missionary teachers & an effort made for the more extended circulation of Pres. H. Missionary

Question No. 18 - What is the only Organ of Information on Home Missions, both of the General Assembly's Board and the Women's Societies?

Answer No. 18 - ~~Our own~~ Pres. Home Missionary formerly the "Rocky Mountain Presbyterian" Edited by Dr. Sheldon Jackson; now passed into the hands of ~~and~~ Edited and published by the Board - having a special department devoted to Woman's Work - Through this ~~well~~ Edited, ~~beautifully~~ printed & illustrated paper, we have monthly, fresh and interesting information from all parts of our Home Field - Through its columns are reported all contributions, and information is given as to methods of organization &c - Published monthly at 23 Centre St. New York -

In considering the subject of Home-Missions we will look at it not as a whole in its grand attempt to plant new churches, and "support the weak" and provide gospel privileges for the incoming multitudes from Europe, more in number last year than the entire population of Vermont and New-Hampshire; but we will just take up the annex the lean-to - as a small addition to the main house is called in some parts of the country - By the way this lean-to is not an inappropriate name for the school-work of the Board of Home-Missions, as committed by the Genl. Assembly to the women and children of the church - It is essentially a part of the house itself - In it much of the preparatory work of woman's part in the household is done - which is so necessary to the comfort and even existence of the home - But I will not take time to enlarge on this figure - tho suggestive in many points -

In regard to school-department of the Board of Home-Missions, several questions claim attention -

1) The work itself
2) The need for it –
3) The motives for it –
4) The discouragements & difficulties –
5) The success given – therefore encouragement –
6) What there is for each one to do –
7) How to do it –

Now as it is important to have the matter well understood, after I say a few words on each topic, the friends present will please ask any questions they may like – writing them on slips of paper if preferred –

1) The work itself –

It is among the exceptional races in this country – "those who are with us" but not exactly "of us" – there is the Indian, on whose rights and wrongs it would take long to enlarge – These tribes are not dying out – except as perishing at the hands of the men selling them whiskey and bad at that – 260,000 of these Indians are found in our country as in the Indian Territory, where parts of 31 tribes are congregated – in Alaska – in Arizona – and in many sections of our land – Whatever may be their religion it is one of darkness & cruel superstition –

Then the Mexicans 200.000 strong - ig-
-norant - priest-ridden - believing a
strange mixture of Paganism & Roman-
-ism not ill-combined - the Papal cross
the wooden sun-god receiving about
equal adoration -
The third great exceptional class is
the Mormon - of whose wicked teachings
and practices, no adjective at hand can
give any idea - In their parody of Scrip-
-ture expressions, they are literally strengthening
the Stakes of Zion - sending out colonies
every 50 miles from the advancing
Rail-roads - and beginning to control
the elections over 1/5 part of our area -
All of the above populations, in the
advancing settlement of the country
are becoming interwoven with what
we call the regular citizens of the
United States - hailing however as many
of them do from the fader-land or the
Emerald Isle - glistening not now with
any thing but pristine beauty -
Our Home-missionaries in their explora-
-tions have found themselves face to face
with the above anti-typic races - and have
sent back word - "there are sometimes
strange faces in our congregations - but
they are too ignorant to understand the

or not simply preaching" — or "there is an Indian reservation in this vicinity — what shall we do" — or "the power of the Romish priests — of the Mormon priests is such, we cannot reach the people — perhaps we can the children" — so step by step, the mission policy in the home-field as well as in that abroad has come to be "educate the children" —

When repeated inquiries of "what shall we do?" came back to the Board of Home Missions from their [illegible] on the frontiers, it appealed to the Genl. Assembly — whose agent it is — the Assembly in repeated deliverances said virtually "the Church does not now give you enough money to support all the preachers you could employ to advantage — but if the women and children, whose part thus far for Home Missions has been only to send out the Boxes & packages so much valued — will raise the money, you may establish schools, & commission the teachers, as it seems most important to have done"!

But to tell the truth my sisters, at first some of us paid any attention to the call — those who were able to give time & money to any work of the kind

thought their hands already too full with the work abroad; others were indifferent to it, thro' ignorance of the facts of the case—

At last the Synods took up the matter— and appointed, several of them, a Com^tee of women to look after this new work given them by the Master thro' His church to do—

It has been such a recognition of woman's existence in the church as never before in our Church given— Other work we have taken up ourselves, and brought our offerings, which have been gratefully received with many thanks and compliments by the Boards of the church— but in this Home-Mission work the Synods formally commit a special department to our care— expecting an Annual Report of what has been done, the same as from any other of its Com^tees.

Out of these Synodical Com^tees, grew, by recommendation of the Genl. Assembly, the Woman's Exc. Com^tee of Home Missions as a Band of union, and Head-quarters for them all— and which was to work in close co-operation with the Board of Home Missions, and not as a distinct organization—

In addition to this, the Office had to be in New-York City — and the members who served as Treasurer & Secretaries to be chosen from women, members of Synod'l Com'tees, who lived in or near the city of New-York — It holds a meeting of 4 or 5 hours every the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month — and its members, scattered thro' the 27 Synods as formerly constituted, have a right to attend — & are always welcomed when visiting New York. Our Annual Report, had I time to read it would explain more of what the work has been — Our last Circular "Aims for 1882" shows what is planned for the future — The paper "Presb. H. Missions", now the organ of the Bd. H. Missions, gives every month published receipts of money & "Boxes" & other information connected with the School work among the exceptional Races, which I have endeavored to explain is committed to the women of the Presb'n Church —

Let me not forget the building of Chapels, to be used for school-rooms, as well as places of Missions-buildings which has grown into such an important part of woman's work in Home-Missions — This is made necessary by the opposition of Mormon & Romish priests not allowing premises to be rented us for school & church purposes & at some points, a home must be provided for Missionary

II. The need of it –

The gospel is needed every where – The mission school is found by experience in other lands as well as this to be a wedge for the entrance of the gospel – We have learned to expect that where a mission school is established, there will before long be a church, and a regular pastor –

Can I begin to go into detail as to how the Indians need the gospel – some of you may know better than I of the utter degradation of some of their women – Even boys in Alaska after being received into a mission day-school found they could no longer live in the filth and immorality of the Indian ranche, – begged for the use of an unoccupied room – promising to feed themselves on what they could pick up – It is for these boys & our mission we need $4.000 or $5.000 to replace their burned building at Sitka –

On other reservations the same need of the purifying and uplifting power of Christ is called for – How shall they believe on Him of whom they have not heard?

Then the Mexicans – When Gen'l Scott finished the war with Mexico, he broke off from its territory a large piece – joining it to ~~that~~ of the United States – This area brought with it, or rather over it, a

a part of the same population to which we are now sending Foreign Missions in Mexico proper. These new citizens are not as yet at all assimilated with us. The priests have fostered most cruel rites — the torture of the cactus, the flagellation of the Penitentes — for instance in proof of this, one of our young teachers writing from S. Colorado said in plea for repairs necessary to comfort & good appearance of her school-room — "the ceiling is all streaked with blood — It was before we took it, a lodge of the Penitentes!" As to the iniquities connected with the Montezuma worship, we can only hint — nothing but the Gospel can do away with them — It is not yet true as some verse of a hymn reads —
"We praise thee that the gospel light Thro all our land its influence sheds" —
Except the Mormons! — So much has been said of late as to this strange anomaly of the 19th century, it is not necessary to enlarge — We thank God for right & decided legislation in regard to it — but the testimony of those best informed is that little humanly speaking can be done for the adult Mormon — or the infidel apostate —

The hope for Utah is in the Gospel, and the mission school made so attractive as to draw into it the children. The friends there write $1.00 given now is worth more than $10. five years hence.

We have copies on hand of Prof. Coyner's Hand-Book of Mormonism. Whatever money you may pay for a copy, may go thro' our Society to our Treasurer Mrs. Boyd, to aid the support of the Salt Lake City Institute. It is proposed to make it a college. Who will give large contributions to this end?

III. Motives.

There is time for brief reference only.

1. As loyal Presbyterian women, we should take up work specially assigned us by the Genl. Assembly.
2. Every motive that leads us into Foreign missions, but one, should affect us here. The exception is that that is a larger work, but as well might the mother of a family say at thought of some neglected neighborhood, where swarms of children need clothing & instruction, "there are so many of those, I will just leave my own children and attend

to those entirely." This ought ye to have done but not to leave the other undone.
Forty years ago Rev. John Angell James, whom some of us older ones well remember, said to christians in this country
"The object of your zeal must be your own country — to supply her rapidly increasing population with faithful ministers. Your religious policy must be a Home policy. Compared with the claims of your own land, the claims of the heathen are but second-ary. If you cannot attend to both, you must attend to your own destitute people.
On your land hangs in a great measure the future interests of the Globe. Hence the unspeakable importance of your Churches concentrating in a great measure their religious efforts upon your country.
It is even necessary in order to supply your own people with pastors, one half of your male members should become ministers, while it should be the chief business of the other half to support them. These are my deliber-ate views of the duties of the Christians of America". Does not the argument apply to our school-work as well?

The motives which lead us into missions
at Home or abroad are.

1st Desire for the glory of Christ –

2nd Loving obedience to His last command.

3rd Common humanity – Nothing but the
gospel can raise the fallen – More de-
gradation than among Indians & Mormon
women cannot elsewhere be found – Of the
latter Rev. R. G. McNiece – some time since wrote
of our paper – "Mormonism so degrades its
victims that they become unconscious of
their degradation – and eulogize the
very bondage that so degenerates them
socially, morally, and intellectually" –

In addition to the above three general motives
to which we might add

4th the reflex influence on our own hearts
and lives – There are others which
should influence us to take hold of
work in the United States –

1st Self-defense – there is danger from the
very freedom of our institutions, unless
our voters are trained into right principles
and practice – Then many of our own children are in the far West.

2nd For the sake of For. Missions One pastor
from Illinois wrote a few days ago –
"I mean to work for Home Missions
as a "base of supplies" for For. Missions."

The first grant of Home Mission money

made by our church was in 1719 — to the 1st Presbn Church of New York city — Dr Paxton's, the Moderator of Genl. Assembly of 1880 — which now gives thousands of dollars to For. Missions — At Kansas City, Missouri, we had a woman's missionary meeting — in a lecture-room — [illegible] seated by seats sent to it, when first organized, from some church at the East —

A Home-Mission church in Iowa, hardly able to stand, took up its first collection, and appropriated the $6.00 received to Foreign Missions —

3rd — No other Protestant nation will come into our limits, to set up Missions — England, & Germany will help us in India, Africa &c — but not in our own country —

4th The work sometimes, as in old & new Mexico, is identical —

IV Difficulties and discouragements —

To say nothing of imperfect service & consecration on the part of us in our church societies, & larger organizations, and on the part of missionaries on the field themselves, we meet with

1. Ignorance as to the facts of the case both among ministers and people — so that not enough money is contributed as ought to enter doors already open —

2nd Sometimes attention on the part of pastors in the churches is so fully given to Missions abroad, they do not realize the importance of that in this country.
3rd Want of that abiding presence of Christ in the heart, which gives large and loving views of all parts of the work He has left for His people to do.

V. Encouragements.
1st The work is the Lord's. He will provide for it, and carry it on in the very best way.
2nd He does give success. Five years ago in Utah, there were but 8 Prest. ministers and no teachers. Now there are 16 ministers. 31 day-schools with 1450 pupils. & 43 missionary-teachers. and a Prest. meeting was every year in some strong hold of Mormonism. Older pupils most of them become members of the church. Six of them are qualified to take schools themselves.

VI. What to do.
1st Pray. earnestly. believingly.
For some wise end, our God has made real connection between prayer and blessing.
I have not time to speak of the lessons

about this taught me in the use of the Electric pen — Three or more ~~Last~~ Sundays ago in Brooklyn I went to a strange church. There seemed a grand organ there — but as directly back of the pastor's seat there was no room for the organist — and while I looked and wondered, my eye caught just in front of the pews a very unpretending little piece of furniture — and directly a young lady rose — opened it — there were 3 banks of keys — which touched she thus opened the valves above — & the melody & harmony poured forth, & filled the house where we were sitting — there was communication unseen below the pulpit. How suggestive all this I thought is as woman's work — the touch was needed, but all the power was from above — So the touch of faith and prayer is the best & greatest thing we can do for Missions — We have our Sunday concert of prayer for For. Missions, let us remember the Home-work each Sunday morn — as we wait for divine service to begin — a thing that others far out upon the prairies — or scattered toward the Pacific coast may have the same privileges as we ourselves enjoy —

If no money can be given - still let the women meet and pray together, & thus fill our land with gospel words -
Organize in some way - in order to spread information and raise the money needed - doing this with united hearts with prayer & supplication thus claiming the promise -

The consolidation of the Synods makes it important to have the women in each Presbytery take up the work -
Do not wait for action of Synod -
The Synod will more readily appoint to duty those who prove their fitness for it -

Distribute circulars on Home Missions such as you may receive on application to the Woman's Exe. Comm^tee at 23 Centre St - New York City - or local ones - setting off claims of any special work you may undertake -

We send out leaflets several times a year & want the name of one woman in every church who will receive & distribute them with care -

Please write for any information we can give - Mrs. Langdon, who has the matter of Boxes in charge would gladly send several Blanks into a Presbytery to be apportioned there - but needs report of what is done - so as to know when a Home-Missiy family or school is

supplied –

"We aim to have Sunday Schools as a whole trained into Mission-work – having a Secy & Treas. in every class – Please help in this important line –

Now may the dear Lord give us some sense of the privilege and honor of being used by Him in His purposes of mercy to this great country so that it may indeed become a light, by which the world will be illuminated –

He will teach us what He will have us do – if only we are willing & obedient –

Home Missions
May/82 -